



## *Southeast Missouri Area Agency on Aging*

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May 27, 2011

Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell  
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker  
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn

Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: WT Docket 11-65

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

The Southeast Missouri Area Agency on Aging's mission is to develop a coordinated delivery system of services to assist and enable older Missourians to remain in their own homes as long as possible and to enhance the quality of life for all older Missourians.

One of the most promising developments in the past few years is the ability of technology to deliver services and help older Missourians maintain connections that allow them to stay in their homes. We call this "aging in place" and with the baby boom generation now reaching age 65 it is fast becoming one of the more important public policy issues we, as a state and a nation, must address.

One of the best ways we can deal with the looming challenge of helping seniors age in place is by expanding access to mobile broadband service. Access to mobile broadband holds such great promise for older Americans. Be it the delivery of health care to the ability to communicate with family and friends in other parts of the world, mobile broadband connectivity is a crucial part of solving our public policy interests.

The proposed merger between AT&T and T-Mobile will result in the expansion of broadband service to 97 percent of the country. This is particularly important in smaller communities and rural areas, which is where most of the people we work with happen to live.

I strongly urge you to look out for the interests of the senior citizens in Southeast Missouri and across America as you review the proposed merger of AT&T and T-Mobile, and that you support policies that help keep older Americans in their homes and connected to their communities.

Sincerely,

Glenda Hoffmeister, Executive Director  
Southeast Missouri Area Agency on Aging